Virginia Department of Historic Resources
PIF Resource Information Sheet

This information sheet is designed to provide the Virginia Department of Historic Resources with the necessary data to be able to evaluate the significance of the property for possible listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. This is not a formal nomination, but a necessary step in determining whether or not the property could be considered eligible for listing. Please take the time to fill in as many fields as possible. A greater number of completed fields will result in a more timely and accurate assessment. Staff assistance is available to answer any questions you have in regards to this form.

General Property Information

For Staff Use Only
DHR ID #: 118-0126

Property Name(s): Lynchburg Hosiery Mill

Property Date(s): 1905, 1928, 1949 ☐Circa ☐Pre ☐Post Open to Public? ☐Yes ☐Limited ☒No

Property Address: 2734 Fort Avenue City: Lynchburg Zip: 24501

County or Ind. City: Lynchburg USGS Quad(s): Lynchburg

Physical Character of General Surroundings

Acreage: 3.5 Setting (choose one): ☒Urban ☐Town ☐Village ☐Suburban ☐Rural ☐Transportation Corridor

Site Description Notes/Notable Landscape Features: The site is bound on the east by Fort Avenue, on the north and west by Reed Street, and on the south by a lumber yard and residential homes along Reed Street. There is a partially demolished brick wall along the Fort Avenue property line. There are smaller commercial operations across and along Fort Avenue. Spring Hill Cemetery is directly across Reed Street at the northern boundary. To the west across Reed Street are what appear to be the remains of a residential mill village with homes built during the height of the mill's operation. The most notable physical feature of the three and a half acre site on which the existing buildings are situated is a change in grade of approximately 40 feet from the lowest side along Fort Avenue to an approximately one acre level plateau at the southern edge of the property. Natural rock outcroppings between the low and high sections of the site make up a nearly vertical wall running parallel to Fort Avenue at the center of the property. One of two of the existing significant buildings is built into this wall, its stone foundations appearing to grow seamlessly from the native rock.

Secondary Resource Description (Briefly describe any other structures (or archaeological sites) that may contribute to the significance of the property: n/a

Ownership Category: ☒Private ☐Public-Local ☐Public-State ☐Public-Federal

Individual Resource Information

What was the historical use of this resource? Examples include: Dwelling, Grist Mill, Bridge, Store, Tobacco Barn, etc…

Manufacturing Facility – Hosiery Mill

What is the current use? (if other than the historical use) None - vacant

Architectural style or elements of styles: Early 20th century industrial vernacular

Architect, builder, or original owner: Midland Hosiery Company

# of stories 3 Condition: ☐Excellent ☐Good ☒Fair ☐Deteriorated ☐Poor ☐Ruins ☐Rebuilt ☐Renovated

Are there any known threats to this property? No

Resource Component Information Please answer the following questions regarding the individual components of the resource. If the component does not exist, answer "n/a." If you feel uncomfortable in answering the question, please leave the space blank. Photographs of the features can also help our staff identify specific feature components. Usually, priority is given to describing features on the primary (front) facade of the structure.
Foundation: Describe the foundation that supports the structure. Examples include piers, continuous brick, poured concrete. Continuous stone transitioning to a bearing wall and concrete slab.
Structure: Describe the primary structural component of the resource. Include primary material used. Examples include log, frame (sawn lumber), and brick. Also include the treatment, such as a particular brick bond or type of framing, if known. Common bond brick with concrete slab flooring at the first level. A mixture of wood flooring and concrete flooring at upper levels of the two primary buildings (A & B). Concrete masonry units with a concrete slab floor at the secondary building (C).
Walls: Describe the exterior wall covering such as beaded weatherboard or asbestos shingles. Primarily common bond brick with painted and unpainted areas. One elevation of Building A with wood framed construction with contemporary vinyl siding. (refer to the Architectural Description).
Windows: Describe the number, material, and form of the primary windows. This includes the number of panes per sash, what the sashes are made of, and how the sashes operate (are they hinged or do they slide vertically) Have the windows been replaced? Primarily steel-framed factory sash panels with double openings (A&B). Other windows include aluminum framed with a translucent Plexiglas panel and a lower opening (Building B). In some cases the steel framed windows have been filled in with concrete block to allow for the installation of vinyl windows 3' x 5' in size (B). Two over two metal casement windows fill the openings in Building C.
Porch: Briefly describe the primary (front) porch. List the primary material, shape of the porch roof, and other defining details. n/a
Roof: Describe the roof, listing the shape and the covering material. Slightly pitched built up torch down bitumen roof at Buildings A and B. Pitched, corrugated metal roof at Building C.
Chimney(s): List the number of chimneys and the materials used. Include the brick bond pattern if possible. Metallic boiler exhaust stack on Building A only. Small chimney at rear of Building A.

Architectural Description of Individual Resource: (*Please describe architectural patterns, types, features, additions, remodelings, or other alterations. A sketch of the current floor plan would be appreciated)*

There are three separate buildings on site. Although separate functions were performed in each, they were integral pieces of the entire mill operation until it ceased operation in 1980. The buildings described have been functionally related historically to serve an overall purpose. There features are as follows:

Building A

Building A, located on the western portion of the site, has its north façade facing Fort Avenue and its south façade facing Reed Street along the rear property line of the parcel. It is the smaller of the two brick buildings. Because it housed a dye house and drying area on the first floor and knitting and looping machines for socks on the second floor, it was not air conditioned[1].

The exterior shell of the building consists of regular, extruded brick laid in the five course common bond pattern, and rests on a poured concrete foundation. A brick boiler room with skylight, containing remnants of a boiler, occupies the central rear of the building. This building is an excellent example of industrial architecture of the early part of the Twentieth Century[2].

The eastern façade is accessed from a parking lot that leads to an entrance at Fort Avenue. On both floors on the left side of the façade there are three bays with one 25-pane metal casement double windows in the brick exterior. The right side of the eastern façade is covered by vinyl siding. It has one metal roll up garage

[1] Gerhardt, E. Alvin, Jr. Telephone Interview of January 3, 2011.
[2] Bradley, Betsy Hunter. The Works: The Industrial Architecture of the United States, New York , Oxford University Press, 1999, p. 31

door and one single leaf metal entrance door at the lower level of the right half of the façade. This elevation has always been considered the 'front' of the building. The building, built circa 1905 where the original 1900 building sat, had siding placed on the right side as a result of a fire and partial demolition of the building in July 1980 and modification of the elevation and installation of the current doors in October 1980.[3] The area of the building that was demolished contained the main administrative and sales offices for the mill and manufacturing space. A review of the 1938 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map reflects both Buildings A and B on the site.[4] A review of the map gives an indication of the size of the two floors of the building that had been demolished as a result of the fire. The demolished section of building measures approximately 39' x 40' (3,120 square feet). The remaining entire first floor is approximately 10,300 square feet and the second floor is approximately 10,700 square feet for a total current square footage of 21,000 square feet. The demolished floor area represented 13% of the former total square footage.

The northern façade borders the property line along Fort Avenue. This façade is unique in that it clearly reflects two phases of construction. Gutters and downspouts convey water from the slightly pitched roof exhibited by both phases. The first 44' of this façade show five bays at both the first and second floor. Each bay has a 36-pane metal casement window. The panes are 12" x 18" in size and the window openings have brick sills and brick headers arranged in a soldier course. There is a parapet at the roof that punctuates the change in the two sections. The remaining approximately 140' of the northern façade exhibits 14 bays. Each second floor bay also has a 36-pane metal casement window with a pane dimension of 14" x 20". The first floor has 14 bays but only five of the 14 have windows similar to the second floor. The remaining eight have been partially closed with concrete masonry units. Horizontally oriented one over one vinyl windows have been placed in the smaller opening. All windows in the second phase have concrete sills and brick headers arranged in a soldier course.

The western façade faces the property line that borders Lancaster Street at its intersection with Fort Avenue. It also faces Springhill Cemetery. There are three window bays and a double leaf metal entrance door at the first floor and four bays at the second floor. The first floor windows have been partially closed with concrete masonry units. Horizontally oriented one over one vinyl windows have been placed in the smaller opening. There is terra cotta tile atop the parapet.

The southern façade faces Reed Street, and is the most altered of the four faces of the building, barring the prior demolition at the eastern façade. The four visible bays at the second floor have 36-pane metal casement windows similar to the northern façade. The four bays below grade at the first floor have been partially closed in and horizontally oriented one over one vinyl windows also similar to the northern façade have been installed. The façade has a small concrete masonry unit stairwell near the loading dock. The stairwell allows outside access from the first floor which is below grade in this area of the building. The loading dock gives access to the second floor. Next to the loading dock is the original brick enclosure for the massive boiler. Continuing in the eastern direction along the southern façade we come to an offset of the second floor of the second phase of construction. This section houses a furnace and has a brick chimney attached to the rear wall of this section. There are 30-pane metal casement windows on each side of this offset and separate 12-pane metal fixed casement windows on either side of the brick chimney. There is a two over two metal casement window and transom window near the exit door for this offset. The façade continues on and has a single leaf metal door and three 30 pane metal casement windows at the second floor of the first phase. Below grade in the same area are three similar windows at the first floor.

The interior of the building is typical of a manufacturing facility of the time. The 44' x 78' area that comprises the first floor of the first phase has a concrete floor similar to and congruent with the balance of the first floor in the second phase. The first floor construction differs in that the first phase has wooden posts supporting the second floor above and wooden 9" planks as the subfloor above. Mens and Womens bathrooms are in the same area at both floors. The second floor is accessed via a set of wooden enclosed stairs. The second floor of the first phase has 2 ½" wide tongue-and-groove flooring of varying lengths.

[3] Parcel Record Card, Lot No. 27-33-19, City Assessor's Office, City of Lynchburg, VA
[4] Sanborn Fire Insurance Company. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map: City of Lynchburg,, Additional Index, August 1938, p.67

There are wooden posts supporting the roof above. Wooden planks similar to the subfloor are at the roof level. There are two openings in a partition wall at the junction of the first and second phase. At both openings there is a transition in the floor of approximately 6" upward to the second phase. This first phase was constructed circa 1905.[5]

The first floor at the second phase has I-beams supporting the concrete subfloor above. This area of the building has a concrete floor, access to the massive boiler, the blocked in lower level windows with the vinyl windows inserted, and a double leaf metal exit door along the western façade. Again, accessing the second floor via the wooden stairs, the second phase has a wooden floor similar to second floor of the first phase. There is a 11' x 39' office area made of partition walls centered along the southern façade wall. Immediately to the right of this office area are the doors to the loading dock at the rear of the building. There are metal I-beams and cross-members supporting the roof. The roof in this area has wooden planks similar to the first phase. The second phase of this building was constructed in 1936.[6] The building has a sprinkler throughout.

The ceiling beams in both phases are visible from the interior and support wood planks that comprise the sheathing. The roof of the building has a low pitch. The roof covering is a torch down bitumen product flashed at the parapet. The parapet is capped with brown terra cotta tile. There are gutters and downspouts attached to the rake of the northern and southern facades.

There are mens and womens bathrooms at the first and second floor with doors opening at the first phase. A small, wainscoted stairway with no handrail leads from the newer wooden stairs and handrail at the first floor. The building does not have a freight elevator. The garage door at the eastern façade allows vehicles to enter at the first floor and the loading dock at the southern façade allows vehicles to enter at the second floor.

Building B

Building B, located centrally on the site, has its north (front) façade facing Fort Avenue and its south façade bordering Reed Street along the rear property line of the parcel. It is the largest building on the site and primarily contained knitting machines for full fashion stockings. This building is also an excellent example of industrial architecture of the third and fourth decade of the Twentieth Century.

Rising three stories above grade, the L-shaped building contains approximately 8,000 square feet on the first floor, 26,750 square feet on the second floor, and 970 square feet on the third floor for an approximate total of 35,620 square feet. Although characterized as a mill, this building displays many characteristics that are typical of "loft" buildings of the period. These structures, as opposed to mills, are typically multistory, urban industrial buildings with open expanses of generic (non function-specific) space. Staircases, elevators, and service rooms were generally located in adjoining towers, so that the actual workspace of the building would not be compromised by clutter, circulating workers, or even fire.[7] This characteristic is exhibited by the front protrusion at all three levels of the front façade. This area houses the only stairwell and the bathrooms utilized by the mill workers at the first and second level.

Building B, although it gives the appearance of one structure, was originally two separate buildings that were later joined. The original portion of the building consisted of the central portion of Building B and was constructed circa 1928-1929 and houses not only manufacturing space but the stairwell and bathrooms at the front of the building.[8] The first level of this central portion has a 'primary' floor area that measures approximately 72' x 72' and has windows at the front and rear. Open to the 'primary' floor area is a 16' x 100' hallway with windows along the north façade and a poured concrete foundation for the second floor which also serves as a wall for the hallway. The second floor of this central portion measures approximately 72' x 248'6". It is represented as open space with the exception of some partitioning by a later tenant for small office space toward the rear of this section. The stairwell provides access to the small third floor of the

[5] Parcel Record Card, Lot No. 27-33-19, City Assessor's Office, City of Lynchburg, VA
[6] Gerhardt, E. Alvin, Jr. Telephone Interview of January 3, 2011.
[7] Bradley, Betsy Hunter. The Works: The Industrial Architecture of the United States, New York , Oxford University Press, 1999, p. 31

[8] Parcel Record Card, Lot No. 27-33-(22 – 26), City Assessor's Office, City of Lynchburg, VA
building. This third floor housed the central air conditioning system that provided central air to the machines on the lower floors. The third floor was constructed in 1946.[9]

The westernmost section that measures approximately 55' x 56 at both the first and second floor and was constructed in the 1933.[10] The western façade currently has vinyl siding as its exterior covering. This façade was originally built with wood siding to allow for future expansion of the building. It was later covered with vinyl siding and had a garage door added by subsequent Owners circa 1972.[11] There is a small office area on the first floor with the remainder of both floors used for manufacturing. There are windows at the western façade and what are known as the front and rear of this section of Building B.

The windows at the first floor are all 35-pane metal casement double windows. The windows at the second level are 35-pane metal casement double windows that alternate with window openings of the same size but have 4"x4" glass block in place as opposed to windows. Window openings at both levels are similar in that the headers are brick arranged in a soldier course and all have concrete sills.

The westernmost section described above and the central portion was considered to be one building when the westernmost section was added to the central portion. The easternmost section of the building was actually a separate building constructed in 1943[12] with a front façade facing east with a parking area and its entrance accessed from Reed Street. This is evidenced by the dual stepped parapets at the front façade and the differing windows at the combined facades. The left side of the façade has windows with 4"x4" glass block and the right side has metal casement windows. The building is a single story with a half basement that is accessed by a door on its north façade. The foundation and floor are poured concrete. In the late 1940s the two buildings were joined.[13] This section of Building B measures approximately 72'6" x 72'6". Because of its addition to the central portion, it appears as if it has windows at all four facades. The windows at the western façade of this section have the translucent Plexiglas panels exhibited at the first and second floors of the central portion.

The exterior shell of the building consists of regular, extruded brick laid in the five course common bond pattern, and rests on a poured concrete foundation. A partial basement, not easily accessed because of terrain and slope of the site in the immediate area, as mentioned above, lies below the easternmost section of the building.

The north façade, which faces Fort Avenue, and is the most irregular of the four faces of the building. The westernmost portion of this façade has seven bays at both the first and second floor. The first floor has five 35-pane metal casement double windows, two 35-pane metal casement single windows, two metal single leaf entrance doors, and one 9-pane fixed metal casement window above one entrance door. The central portion of this façade is broken by an ell that projects towards Fort Avenue. This structure, as described by Betsy Hunter Bradley, contains the stair shaft and bathrooms.[14] Thus, this section has few windows. With exception of the third floor penthouse containing the HVAC system, this area of the façade presents a relatively uniform appearance due to the translucent windows in the central portion and the western façade of the easternmost section. The first floor of the central portion displays four bays with three of the bays containing one 25-pane aluminum window and one bay containing a 15-pane aluminum window. The second floor of the central portion displays eight bays consisting of seven bays with two pairs of 25-pane aluminum steel windows and one bay with one 25-pane aluminum window and all bays separated by brick pilasters. The headers above the first floor of the central portion are concrete and appear to be integrated into the poured concrete floor for the second floor. The headers above the second floor of the central portion are brick arranged in a soldier course with a single course of half brick in a soldier course immediately above.

[9] Parcel Record Card, Lot No. 27-33-21, City Assessor's Office, City of Lynchburg, VA
[10] Parcel Record Card, Lot No. 27-33-27, City Assessor's Office, City of Lynchburg, VA
[11] Gerhardt, E. Alvin, Jr. Telephone Interview of January 3, 2011.
[12] Parcel Record Card, Lot No. 27-33-(22 – 26), City Assessor's Office, City of Lynchburg, VA
[13] Gerhardt, E. Alvin, Jr. Telephone Interview of January 3, 2011.
[14] Bradley, Betsy Hunter. The Works: The Industrial Architecture of the United States, New York , Oxford University Press, 1999, p. 31

The offset of the joined easternmost section of the building has five bays consisting of two pairs of 25 pane windows. They are similar in that the headers are brick arranged in a soldier course. They are different that there are slightly offset brick curtain walls beneath the windows. This first level of this area of the offset has 12-pane metal casement windows with brick headers. While viewing the remainder of the north façade, at the basement level of the easternmost section, are three 12-pane metal casement windows and a metal entrance door. At the ground level of this section are six bays. There are two 35-pane single windows, three 35-pane double windows, and one 84-pane triple window. All windows have concrete sills.

The eastern façade that is accessed from the parking lot with its entrance on Reed Street has five entrance doors. There are two single leaf entrance doors (one wood, one metal), one metal double leaf entrance door, one metal roll up garage door (circa unknown), and one double leaf wooden floor to ceiling cargo door at the loading dock. Giving credence to its beginnings as a separate building, the windows here vary from other areas of the building. There are six bays with windows, three of which have 4"x4" glass block and can be attributed to the original construction of the central portion of the building, one 28-pane metal casement window, one 28-pane metal casement double window, and one 49-pane metal casement double window. It is the only façade of Buildings A and B that is painted.

The southern façade faces Reed Street, and is the most congruent of the four faces of the building. The windows at the first floor are all 35-pane metal casement double windows. The windows at the second level are 35-pane metal casement double windows that alternate with window openings of the same size but have 4'x4' glass block in place as opposed to windows. Window openings at both levels are similar in that the headers are brick arranged in a soldier course and all have concrete sills.

The western façade is accessed from a small parking lot that leads to an entrance at Lancaster Street. It has one metal roll up garage door. At the first floor there are three bays with one 35-pane metal casement window and two 35-pane double windows. At the second floor there are also three bays. There is one 28-pane metal casement double window in the northernmost bay. The center bay contains a 21-pane metal casement double window coupled with a 28-pane metal casement double window. The southernmost bay contains one 35-pane metal casement window sandwiched between and coupled with two 28-pane metal casement windows.

The third floor, which houses the non-functioning HVAC system, has four 35-pane metal casement windows. Two are at the north façade with one each at the eastern and western façade of the third floor.

The interior of the building is typical of a manufacturing facility of the time. The 56' x 55' first floor area of the westernmost section is the only area in the facility with 2 ½" wide tongue-and-groove flooring of varying lengths. All other areas of the entire building, with the exception of the second floor of the central portion, are all poured concrete. The second floor of the central portion has flooring that is a mix of wood flooring and poured concrete presumably to allow comfort for workers feet coupled with stabilization for heavy machinery. There are areas of the concrete floor that have been 'notched' out and have metal couplings integrated into the concrete.

Metal I-beams at the first floor support the concrete floor of the second floor. Wooden beams throughout the entire second floor support the roof. The ceiling beams are visible from the interior and support wood planks that comprise the sheathing. The roof of the building has a very shallow pitch. The roof covering is a torch down bitumen product flashed at the parapet. The parapet is capped with brown terra cotta tile.

There is a small office area in the westernmost section with a half bathroom immediately outside of the office. The woodwork (including doors, baseboard, chair rail, and wainscoting) in the office is painted with an opaque color.

There are mens and womens bathrooms at the first and second floor in the ell that also contains the stairwell. There are fire doors at all stairwell entrances and all bathroom entrances. A stairway with simple, straight

balusters leads down from the boiler room to the first floor. The building is unique in that it does not have a freight elevator. The garage door at the western façade allows vehicles to enter at the first floor and the garage door at the eastern façade allows vehicles to enter at the second floor.

Building C

Building C, located along the upper elevation and easternmost edge of the parcel is a single story storage facility built ca. 1949.[15] Its primary function was the storage of vehicles used to transport materials used for the manufacturing process.

The building is at grade with a poured concrete foundation and floor. There are two pair of floor to ceiling folding doors. Between the two sets of doors is a concrete masonry unit column. The rectangular shaped building interior measures 22' 6" x 29' 6" or approximately 664 square feet. The exterior shell of the building consists of painted concrete masonry units at every façade. The eastern and western facades have three window openings each with the northern or rear façade having two window openings. All window openings contain two over two metal casement windows.

The pitched roof of Building C consists of wood trusses with a corrugated metal sheathing atop the trusses. There is no gutter and downspout system on the building and it appears that there never was one.

The Lynchburg Hosiery Mill has been associated with this site since the area's development in the early 1900s. Aside from the portion of Building A that burned and was demolished in 1980, all buildings that comprised the mill during its period of significance remain intact. Both it and the Virginia Textile Company are listed as the only two textile mills in the October 1900 edition of The New, 20th Century Edition, a newspaper that listed and profiled all Lynchburg businesses at that time.[16]

[15] Gerhardt, E. Alvin, Jr. Telephone Interview of January 3, 2011.
[16] The News, 20th Century Edition, Lynchburg, VA, October, 1900, p.115-116

Significance Statement: Briefly note any significant events, personages, and/or families associated with the property. (Detailed family genealogies are not necessary.) Please list all sources of information. It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or genealogies to this form. Normally, only information contained on this form will be posted for consideration by the State Review Board.

Joseph Godber Burton, of Nottingham, England, owned a bleach yard and finishing plant in partnership with his uncle. Later he affiliated himself with I. and R. Morley, one of the world's largest manufacturers and exporters of knit goods. In the late nineteenth century, J.G. Burton, immigrated to Providence, Rhode Island, where he joined a group of men to establish one of the first 'full-fashioned' hosiery mills in America. J.G. Burton came to Lynchburg when the Chemnitz Hosiery Company of Providence, Rhode Island, established a branch of the company known as the Midland Hosiery Company.[1] He was Vice President of the Midland Hosiery Company. The original plant was situated at Fourteenth Street and Stephenson Avenue. It contained 125 knitting machines and had a daily output of 500 pairs of men's, women's, and children's hosiery. The business began in the late 1890's and is listed in the 1899 City Directory as the Midland Hosiery Company.[2] Although listed in the Directory, the business was not in the City limits at that time.[3]

In 1900 J.G. Burton became associated with R. Colston Blackford, a local attorney,[4] in the establishment of a second hosiery plant. The mill was located on Twelfth Street (now Fort Avenue) and consisted of a one-story brick building approximately 100 feet by 40 feet. The site was ideal for the plant due to the springs of water above the building which provided a gravity water supply to the dye house. The mill was one of the first in the country to install the full automatic seamless knitter. The Lynchburg Hosiery Mill went into operation with fifty of these knitting machines. The business became the Lynchburg Hosiery Company in 1902 and in 1907 incorporated with capital stock of $50,000 and became the Lynchburg Hosiery Mills, Inc.[5]

In 1908, a two-story addition to the plant, 60 feet by 40 feet, was constructed, with 90 additional knitting machines in operation.[6] The need for daylight in work areas occupied by workers and machines was another dominant factor in mill design. In the long, relatively narrow manufacturing spaces of the nineteenth century, workbenches lined exterior walls or were placed perpendicular to them, next to windows. Workers sat or stood at these benches, usually facing windows, to perform the operations that required the best lighting – precision work and color matching.[7] In many cases, local builders were directed in their work by the owners or managers of manufacturing operations. Most of the men who started and managed manufacturing operations not only possessed enough technical expertise and common engineering knowledge to determine what type of facility was needed but also understood how to supervise a major construction project.[8] It is very likely that due to his experience in the industry that J.G. Burton performed this function in the construction of the second plant and the addition.

Lynchburg was primarily known for its foundry and tobacco industries, touting the Glamorgan Pipe and Foundry Company as the largest foundry in the South.[9] There were many opportunities for men to find work in the area. It was a strategic decision by the Founders to place the manufacturing plant in Lynchburg because of the high level of employment. With several factories in the area and only one other textile mill in operation,[10] that meant there were hundreds of women available to work at the mill. The work was seen as tedious and non-threatening to the male/female relationship in a household and afforded an extra income to the household. In many ways this was the beginning the two income household. The mill was always a significant employer of women in the Lynchburg area. At its height of almost 1,200 employees, less than 100 were men.[11]

[1] "Midland Hosiery Co., Large Plant of This Company in Lynchburg," The News,20th Century Edition, Lynchburg, VA, October, 1900, p.115
[2] Earl Alvin Gerhardt, Jr. Collection, MS1299, Jones Memorial Library, Lynchburg, VA
[3] Noell, James Burroughs. Business Firms of 1900 In Lychburg, Virginia, Lynchburg Historical Society, 1972, p. 58
[4] Rosewell Page. University of Virginia, Its History, Influence, Equipment, and Characteristics, New York , Lewis Publishing Company, 1904, p.195
[5] Earl Alvin Gerhardt, Jr. Collection, MS1299, Jones Memorial Library, Lynchburg, VA
[6] Earl Alvin Gerhardt, Jr. Collection, MS1299, Jones Memorial Library, Lynchburg, VA
[7] Bradley, Betsy Hunter. The Works: The Industrial Architecture of the United States, New York , Oxford University Press, 1999, p. 27
[8] Bradley, Betsy Hunter. The Works: The Industrial Architecture of the United States, New York , Oxford University Press, 1999, p. 17
[9] "The Glamorgan Pipe and Foundry Co. Largest Foundry in the South," The News,20th Century Edition, Lynchburg, VA, October, 1900, p.109
[10] Noell, James Burroughs. Business Firms of 1900 In Lychburg, Virginia, Lynchburg Historical Society, 1972, p. 58
[11] Gerhardt, E. Alvin, Jr. Telephone Interview of January 3, 2011.

Clarence G. Burton became Treasurer of the firm in 1907 and, upon his father's death, succeeded his father as President of the corporation in 1921. During the 1940s, he continued to serve as President, E. Alvin Gerhardt, Sr. served as Vice President, and Miss A. Una Burton, (C.G. Burton's Sister) served as Secretary and Treasurer.[12]

Clarence Godber Burton (1886-1982) was born in Providence, Rhode Island and moved with his parents to Lynchburg, Virginia at an early age. He served as a member of the Lynchburg School Board 1938-1943, serving as Vice Chairman. He served as a member of the Lynchburg City Council 1942-1948, serving as Mayor for the period of 1946-1948. Burton was elected as a Democrat to the Eightieth Congress on November 2, 1948, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of J. Lindsay Arnold, Jr., and at the time was elected to the Eighty-first Congress. He was reelected to the Eighty-second Congress and served from November 2, 1948, to January 3, 1953. He ran an unsuccessful campaign for reelection in 1952 to the Eighty-third Congress. After his political career, he served as a member of the Lynchburg Board of Zoning Appeals from 1957 to 1977. He served on the Board of Directors, American Federal Savings and Loan Association from 1924 to 1968, and as Chairman until 1980. He resided in Lynchburg until his death on January 18, 1982 and is interred in Spring Hill Cemetery.[13]

Lynchburg Hosiery Mills, Inc. was one of the first mills in the South to manufacture government socks with their first government contract being secured in 1913.[14] After securing its first contract from the United States Army in the early years of the twentieth century, during World War I the mill attributed a large part of its capacity to the production of socks for the Army. The mill worked with the Government on a pre-shrinking process with special emphasis on cushioned sole socks for field usage where laundries were scarce. Before World War I, the company developed and was the first to produce cushioned sole socks. It presented samples of its cushioned sole golf socks to the Research and Development Department of the Army Quartermaster Depot. The cushion sole sock was adopted as standard issue by the Army and became its principal marching sock. The mill also produced full fashioned stockings for the Women's Army Corps and heavy woolen desert top socks for the British and American armies during the North Africa campaign. The relationship with the military and subsequent contracts prompted expansion of the mill in the late 1920s and mid 1930s.[15] The Lynchburg Sesquicentennial Association wrote in its 1936 report in reference to Lynchburg Hosiery Mills that "This has been an outstanding success, particularly notable during the recent years of depression, when general conditions were so strained. The Lynchburg Hosiery Mills have added both to their equipment and staff and have run many months at a time with both day and night shifts operating."[16]

The Lynchburg Hosiery Mills Association was established circa 1920 "to promote friendship among its members, to furnish a method of full and frank discussion of the business of the mill in its relation to those who work for it, the promotion of constructive criticism of methods of manufacture, working conditions, and manufactured product; and for the creation of health benefit funds." The Association was opened to all "white persons" employed by Lynchburg Hosiery Mills, Inc. The Shop Committee consisted of the foremen of the several departments in the mill and was the governing body of the Association. A separate committee, the Benefit Committee, had jurisdiction over the payment of benefits, approving claims before payment and calling on ill or disabled members. Members made weekly contributions to the Association, these being matched by the company. In addition to claims for disability and sickness, the Association also paid benefits to members laid off by the company.[17]

In 1919, Lynchburg Hosiery Mills opened a second mill located at 410 Court Street in the City of Lynchburg. The building formerly housed a tobacco processing operation and was known as Mill #2. The employee base at this mill was truly unique. The officers of the corporation made a bold move in making Mill #2 the only

[12] "Lynchburg Plant Ranks Among Largest Hosiery Mills in the United States," The Daily Advance: Lynchburg, VA, Lynchburg, VA, October 21, 1940
[13] Web site, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clarence_G._Burton, accessed 2 January 2011
[14] Gerhardt, E. Alvin, Jr. Telephone Interview of January 3, 2011.
[15] Earl Alvin Gerhardt, Jr. Collection, MS1299, Jones Memorial Library, Lynchburg, VA
[16] Horner, John V. & Winfree, P.B., Jr. The Saga of a City, Lynchburg, Lynchburg Sesquicentennial Association, Inc., 1936, p.130
[17] Earl Alvin Gerhardt, Jr. Collection, MS1299, Jones Memorial Library, Lynchburg, VA

business or industry in Lynchburg that hired Negro women. It was the first opportunity for Negro women to gain employment outside of doing domestic work in the homes of White Lynchburg residents. Mill #2 produced the tops and bottoms for men's socks. The mill operated only two shifts as opposed to the three shifts that took place at Mill #1. The Negro women did not care to work a third (night) shift due to safety and transportation concerns. The socks that were produced at Mill #2 were taken to Mill #1 on Fort Avenue where the facilities and machines for finishing and dyeing of the socks were located and operated. During the time of its opening in 1919 and until its closing in 1971, Mill #2 employed a range between 150-200 Negro women. This had a tremendous social effect, especially early on in its operation, on the City of Lynchburg in that the most industrious and hard working Negro women aspired to work at the mill thereby diminishing the opportunity for the White upper class to get the best 'help' as domestic service.[18]

Because of the segregated nature of the two mills, The Lynchburg Hosiery Mills Association established a separate Association for the workers of Mill #2. The administration of the two Associations, the secretarial work involved, and the printing of any necessary literature took place at the company's Administrative offices located at Mill #1 on Fort Avenue. The two Associations provided the same benefits to each set of employees, an early form of medical insurance, disability benefits, an early form of unemployment payments, and savings plans to include Christmas Savings Accounts. Because of the sheer number of women employees at both mills, women were permitted to serve on the Shop Committee and as part of the governing body of the Associatons.[19] Due to the steady income and benefits that came with employment at either mill, women both Negro and White actively sought employment there.

During the 1940s the mill was operating 825 seamless knitting machines making men's socks, 125 ribbers, and 30 full fashion machines. Ribbers are machines that knit the upper part of the sock. The ribbings are then knitted to the remainder of the sock by the knitting machine. One area of the mill produced 3,000 dozen pairs of women's sheer silk hose per week with the balance of the mill producing 18,000 dozen pairs of men's socks weekly. In the early 1940s, the mill employed 926 men and women with a weekly payroll of $15,000. Twenty-five Salesmen sold the mills products. Customers of the mill were wholesale houses and large chain stores based primarily in New York and Chicago. One of the largest customers at that time was the US Government. The mill manufactured 8,400 pairs of socks a day for the Government to issue to members of the Armed Forces and Civilian Conservation Corps. Although wool from Australia and silk from Japan were the principal fabrics, because of increases in cost of materials due to the war, engineers and designers at the mill began to incorporate 'new' materials that were gaining popularity. These new materials were known as rayon and nylon and distributed by duPont. These materials were expected to become the principal material for women's hose and, in 1946, because temperature was an important factor in the processing of nylon, prompted building a third story on one of the Fort Avenue buildings to house an air conditioning system.[20] The central building on Fort Avenue was the first such building in the country to be completely air conditioned.[21]

During World War II, the mill made several items for use by the military. Among items made for the war effort were socks, parachutes, and artillery powder bags.[22] The specialty parachutes, known as drogue parachutes, were attached to bombs dropped on enemy positions. Drogue parachutes are used to provide stability. The parachutes slowed the descent of the bomb thereby allowing the plane, and pilot, that dropped them enough time to put a safe distance between it and the exploding bomb. Drogue parachutes are also used to help open larger parachutes.[23] This is an early example of a 'new' material, nylon purchased from duPont, being used in a military application.[24] Parachutes had previously been made exclusively of silk. The mill also produced woolen blankets for the Army and cargo parachutes for the Navy. During World War II, the mill produced more than 28 million pairs of hose for the Armed Forces.[25]

[18] Gerhardt, E. Alvin, Jr. Telephone Interview of January 31, 2011.
[19] Gerhardt, E. Alvin, Jr. Telephone Interview of January 31, 2011.
[20] "Lynchburg Plant Ranks Among Largest Hosiery Mills in the United States," The Daily Advance: Lynchburg, VA, Lynchburg, VA, October 21, 1940
[21] Gerhardt, E. Alvin, Jr. Telephone Interview of January 3, 2011.
[22] Elson, James M., Lynchburg, Virginia, The First Two Hundred Years 1786-1986, Lynchburg, Virginia ,Warwick House Publishers, 2004, p.373
[23] Lynchburg Hosiery Mill, Inc., Research by Vince Desmond, Lynchburg Museum System, Lynchburg, VA, July 29, 2010
[24] Web site, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DuPont, accessed 2 January 2011
[25] Earl Alvin Gerhardt, Jr. Collection, MS1299, Jones Memorial Library, Lynchburg, VA

Lynchburg's draft quota for October and November 1942 was 619. There was already a shortage of men for available jobs. In the city the foundries and shoe factories, hosiery and textile mills, factories making clothing under government contract, were essential war industries. They would need more workers. So the call was for all able persons to fill the jobs, which meant more and more women doing what previously was the work of men. In this way, most of the need for workers was met.[26]

Phenomenal growth of manufacturing payrolls made Lynchburg's factories and mills the very life-blood of the City's business. The growth produced industrial payrolls in Lynchburg that were nearly twice as great as in the last year of World War II and more than three times as much as in the pre-war year of 1939.[27] Following World War II, the mill became one of the largest producers of hosiery in the country, turning out approximately 25,000 dozen pairs of half hose and 2,500 dozen pairs of ladies full-fashioned hose per week. The mill produced stockings of nylon, rayon, and silk, including mesh or clocked hose. Because temperature was an important factor in the processing of nylon, the central building at Mill #1 was air conditioned.[28]

With passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the two separate Lynchburg Hosiery Mill Associations were merged. This meant that both Negro and White employees belonged to the same Association. When the merge took place, the Negro employees of Mill #2 received a partial return of monies that they had placed with the Association. It had been determined that the White employees had used the medical benefits much more than the Negros, therefore a payment had to be made to the majority of the Negro employees in order for all employees to have a equitable pro rata share of the Association upon completion of the merger. Although the Civil Rights Act had become law, Negro women did not work at Mill #1 until Mill #2 was closed in 1971 and all the desired equipment was moved to Mill #1 on Fort Avenue. The Lynchburg Hosiery Mill Association was still in existence upon the sale of Lynchburg Hosiery Mills, Inc. in 1972.[29]

On July 1, 1972, the sale of all issued and outstanding capital stock of the Lynchburg Hosiery Mills, Inc., described as being among the top 10 percent of the nation's hosiery producers, was sold to a group of three Chicago based businessmen. C. Burton Gerhardt, a grandson of the founder, Joseph G. Burton, made the announcement jointly with William H. Rentschler of Chicago, the new President, on September 16, 1972. C. Burton Gerhardt, E. Alvin Gerhardt, Jr., and Clarence G. Burton, members of the founding family, agreed to continue to be active on a day to day basis as Consultants.[30] There is no mention of the business in the City Directory after 1973.[31] The mill ceased operations when a fire in July 1980 resulted in partial demolition of the building at Mill #1 that housed the Administrative offices and some manufacturing space.

Earl Alvin Gerhardt, Jr. (1930-) was born in Lynchburg, Virginia to E.A. Gerhardt, Sr. and Winifred Georgia Burton. Educated in Lynchburg Public Schools, he graduated from Davidson College in North Carolina in May, 1951 with a degree in Economics and Business Administration. Later in life, he received a Master's Degree in Historic Museum Administration from New York State University. During the Korean conflict, Mr. Gerhardt served two years as a First Lieutenant in the US Army. Upon exiting the service, he spent several years working as a salesman and was in sales and finance with Lynchburg Hosiery Mills, Inc. Upon the sale of the mill in the early 1970s, he decided to change careers to Museum Administration. During his career, Mr. Gerhardt was a founding Director of the Virginia History Federation and served as Director, Vice-President, and President. In 1963, he was chairman of the museum committee for the Lynchburg Historical Society and served as Director and Curator of the Lynchburg Historical Museum in the Old Court House. He served as the Society's President from 1970 until 1971. Since then, Mr. Gerhardt has gone on to receive many awards in his field and has served as Executive Director of the Rocky Mount Historical Association in Rocky Mount, Tennessee and as Director of the Museum Studies Program at the President Andrew Johnson Museum and Library at Tusculum College in Greensville, Tennessee.[32]

[26] Scruggs, Philip Lightfoot, The History of Lynchburg, Virginia: 1786-1946, Lynchburg, Virginia ,J.P. Bell Company, 1972, p.259
[27] Greater Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce, Lynchburg, Industrial, Geographical, and Transportation Center of Virginia, pamphlet ca. 1951, Jones Memorial Library, Lynchburg, VA
[28] Earl Alvin Gerhardt, Jr. Collection, MS1299, Jones Memorial Library, Lynchburg, VA
[29] Gerhardt, E. Alvin, Jr. Telephone Interview of January 31, 2011.
[30] "Hosiery Firm Sold to Chicago Group," The News, Lynchburg, VA, September 17, 1972
[31] 1973 Lynchburg City Directory, Lynchburg Clerk of Circuit Court, Lynchburg, VA
[32] Earl Alvin Gerhardt, Jr. Collection, MS1299, Jones Memorial Library, Lynchburg, VA

The former Lynchburg Hosiery Mill is potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for the role the mill played in the life of the City of Lynchburg in the areas of manufacturing and commerce. Criterion A applies as the invention and first production of the cushioned sole sock happened there. The invention of the cushioned sole sock, which is still widely manufactured and considered now to be a standard attribute to virtually all socks manufactured today, has made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our, and the world's, hosiery manufacturing history. Criterion A applies as it relates to the mill's contribution to the Armed Forces since the early 1900s, the war effort during both World Wars, and specifically in the manufacture of drogue parachutes and other military supplies used during World War II. The drogue parachute and its use during World War II, was a crucial component in the weaponry used by Allied Forces in their effort to win the war. Its use saved the lives of countless pilots and assuredly turned many battles during the war. Additionally, the mill's central building was the first such facility in the country to be completely air-conditioned due to the specific climate requirements needed for the manufacture of nylon. While other factories in the nation would mimic these products and processes, the Lynchburg Hosiery Mill is potentially significant because they were first launched at the Fort Avenue facility.

It is also potentially eligible under Criterion A because it became the first mill to be air conditioned to address the use of a 'new' fiber known as nylon. Development or improvement of various hosiery products resulting from the cutting edge nylon manufacturing process was clearly evident at the mill. Parachutes that were made of silk were made of nylon during World War II. Because of the use of the new material and the production of women's nylon stockings, overall production at the mill tripled pre-War output.

It was one of Lynchburg's first textile mills and throughout its operation contributed significantly to commerce both locally with its large number of employees and nationally with it being one of the largest hosieries in the world. Criterion A also applies because of the mill's social significance in its contribution to the employment of women. Lynchburg Hosiery Mills, Inc. was a major employer in Lynchburg during the twentieth century and sought out female employees. Although not at the Fort Avenue site for several decades, it provided employment for Negro women at a time when it was virtually non-existent outside of the domestic help arena and somewhat frowned upon. The action of hiring Negro women fundamentally changed hiring practices in the Region.

The buildings that comprise the former Lynchburg Hosiery Mill are potentially eligible under Criterion C in the area of architecture as an early example of industrial construction specifically for textile mills in the Lynchburg area and the use of structural steel being used in the construction of a manufacturing facility. It is also eligible due to its reflection of the transition of use of wood beams to structural steel in the building process. The buildings, whose components lack individual distinction, holistically display early industrial architecture and various construction methods used over a five decade period giving credence to its eligibility under Criteria C. The buildings are eligible at a local level with a period of significance from 1905 to 1961.

Legal Owner(s) of the Property (For more than one owner, please use a separate sheet.)

Mr. ☒ Mrs. ☐ Dr. ☐
Miss ☐ Ms. ☐ Hon. ☐

Mr. Tony West (Name)	Lynchburg Midtown Lofts, LLC (Firm)	
2600 Memorial Ave, Ste LL1 (Address)	Lynchburg (City)	VA (State)	24501 (Zip Code)
Dalekidd3@verizon.net (Email Address)	(434)401-4962 (Daytime telephone including area code)	

Owner's Signature: _____ Date: _____

• • Signature required for processing all applications. • •

In the event of corporate ownership you must provide the name and title of the appropriate contact person.

Contact person: _____

Daytime Telephone: ( )

Applicant Information (Individual completing form if other than legal owner of property)

Mr. ☒ Mrs. ☐ Dr. ☐
Miss ☐ Ms. ☐ Hon. ☐

Enoch Pou, Jr. (Name)	ClaireView Enterprises, LLC (Firm)	
7109 Staples Mill Rd, #184 (Address)	Richmond (City)	VA (State)	23228 (Zip Code)
epoujr@cve1.com (Email Address)	(804)399-0048 (Daytime telephone including area code)	

Applicant's Signature: Date:

Notification

In some circumstances, it may be necessary for the department to confer with or notify local officials of proposed listings of properties within their jurisdiction. In the following space, please provide the contact information for the local County Administrator or City Manager.

Mr. ☒ Mrs. ☐ Dr. ☐
Miss ☐ Ms. ☐ Hon. ☐

Hon. Kimball Payne (Name)	City Manager (Position)		
Lynchburg, Virginia (Locality)	900 Church Street (Address)		
Lynchburg (City)	VA (State)	24504 (Zip Code)	(434)455-3990 (Daytime telephone including area code)

Please use the following space to explain why you are seeking an evaluation of this property.

The current request for evaluation of the Lynchburg Hosiery Mills site and structures stems principally from a desire by the current owner of the property to preserve and rehabilitate the site as an example of the tradition of building for industry that once defined early 20th century American urban commercial and industrial activity. In addition, as the site and structures define a significant section of the area of Lynchburg in which they were built, preservation and reuse of the site fortifies the character of this section of the city and provides a view into the original social and cultural context of this and similar urban localities.

Would you be interested in the State and/or the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits? Yes ☒ No ☐
Would you be interested in the easement program? Yes ☐ No ☒